

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00644 280423Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
NSC-05 H-02 OMB-01 /083 W
-----071111 290409Z /45

R 271640Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5828
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0644

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MARR
SUBJ: NATO AWACS: DANISH POSITION ON INITIAL COMPUTER R&D FUNDING

REF: COPENHAGEN 0643

PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE:
BEGIN TEXT..JANARY 25, 1978
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DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,
DURING YOUR VISIT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON
MONDAY THE 16TH OF JANUARY HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE YOU
WITH SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DANISH
ATTITUDE TO THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL
SYSTEM (NATO AEW) OR AWACS, WHICH I PROVIDE YOU WITH
ACCORDINGLY.

THE PROJECT ON NATO AEW HAS BEEN CAREFULLY FOLLOWED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AS WELL AS BY THE DEFENCE COMMAND, AND THE OFFICIAL DANISH ATTITUDE HAS BEEN STATED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE NATO DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS, AND AT THE MEETINGS OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS. THIS ATTITUDE IS BRIEFLY THAT WE ACCEPT THE NATO REQUIREMENT FOR A NATO AEW AND AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE NATO PROPOSAL THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE A MIXED SOLUTION OF THE BOEING E3A (AWACS) IN THE STANDARDIZED US/NATO VERSION AND THE BRITISH NIMROD AIRCRAFT.

THE FINAL PACKAGE PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON NATO PROCUREMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED, BUT DENMARK HAS TAKEN PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS, AND THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DENMARK IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME BY CONTRIBUTION OF A LUMP SUM. HOWEVER, SUCH PAYMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE EIGHTIES DUE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHERE ALL INVESTMENTS HAVE BEEN BOUND TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, I.E. F-16.

THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE AT THE THIRD MEETING OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS ON 21ST - 22ND NOVEMBER, 1977, WAS OF COURSE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL. (NATO DOCUMENT DS/(ASG(77)319 UNCLASSIFIED

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DATED 23RD NOVEMBER 1977 REFERS).

AT THE LATEST DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING THE DANISH MINISTER MADE A RATHER SHORT STATEMENT, AS OUR ATTITUDE TO NATO AEW HAD NOT CHANGED. AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING HE COULD NOT ACCEPT DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE PREFINANCCING COST TO INITIATE THE NECESSARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY NEEDED TO RETAIN THE STANDARDIZED OPTION, WHILST REMAINING ASPECTS OF AN AGREED PROGRAMME ARE RESOLVED, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- FUNDS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENTIONED NATURE CANNOT BE FINANCED OVER THE BUDGET FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE UNLESS THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE COMPLETE PROJECT.
- SUCH AN ACCEPTANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE (AND A PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED).
- A PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE PRESENTED UNTIL THE FINAL PACKAGE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM NATO, BECAUSE IF IT WERE PRESENTED NOW, IT WOULD CERTAINLY CAUSE A LOT OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS ETC., WHICH WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ANSWERING.
- INCOMPLETE OR INSUFFICIENT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NATO AEW WOULD RATHER DAMAGE THE CASE THAN SERVE

IT.

IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN DECIDED NOT TO APPROACH THE
GOVERNMENT OR THE PARLIAMENT (BUDGET COMMITTEE) UNTIL
WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FINAL PACKAGE PROPOSAL FROM NATO.
IT IS THE OPINION THAT IT WILL SERVE THE CASE IN THE
BEST WAY, AND I HOPE YOU WILL SHARE THIS VIEW.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

VERNER CHRISTIANSEN, PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY, /

END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH00644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780043-0650
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780116/aaaaamqr.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7b470df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COPENHAGEN 643
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3703349
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO AWACS: DANISH POSITION ON INITIAL COMPUTER R&D FUNDING
TAGS: MARR, DA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7b470df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014